

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04864 061530Z
ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2454
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4864

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, KN, KS
SUBJ: NACC FOREIGN MINISTER MEETING: PROSPECTS
FOR NORTH KOREAN INITIATIVE

REF: A. SEOUL 2514; B. USUN 990

SUMMARY: AS NACCFM IS ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY, JOINT
CONCLUSION OF US, ROK AND JAPANESE "OBSERVERS" IS THAT
THERE IS SO FAR VIRTUALLY NO EVIDENCE THAT PRK DELE-
GATION INTENDS MAJOR INITIATIVE AT THIS MEETING. IF
IT SHOULD SEEK TO, ITS LIMITED ASSETS AND TECHNICAL
POSITION WOULD RAISE SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS. ON
THE OTHER HAND, NORTH KOREANS WOULD HAVE LITTLE DIF-
FICULTY GAINING ADOPTION OF APPARENTLY BLAND BUT LOADED
LANGUAGE FAVORING ITS POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF AND UUN MISOFF MET LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 5
WITH SOUTH KOREAN AND JAPANESE OFFICIALS I NEW DELHI
TO COVER NACCFM. AS REPORTED REF A, ROK HAS SENT THEIR
UN COUNSELOR LEE AS WELL AS MINISTRY OFFICIAL LEE TO
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 04864 061530Z

BEEF UP ALREADY WELL-STAFFED RESIDENT EMBASSY. JAPANESE
HAVE TWO EMBASSY OFFICIALS COVERING CONFERENCE (ONE
OF WHOM--OSHIMA--PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN NEW YORK) AND HAVE
BROUGHT MINEXTAFF OFFICER KATSUNO HANDLING KOREA
QUESTIONS FROM TOKYO.

2. LEE (SEOUL) REPEATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCLUSION

THAT NORTH KOREANS HAVE DONE NO PRE-CONFERENCE LOBBYING IN ATTEMPT TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR NEW INITIATIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN NEW DEHI HAD RETURNED ONLY RECENTLY FROM MONTH-LONG VISIT TO PYONGYANG. INDIANS HAVE ASSURED SOUTH KOREANS THAT HE HAS NOT EVEN RAISED SUBJECT OF NACCFM WITH THEM. US REPS SAID THIS CONSISTENT WITH INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THEM. OSHIMA REPORTED SAME CONCLUSION BY GOJ, WITH ONE NOTEWORTHY EXCEPTION: JAPANESE EMBASSY IN PANAMA HAD REPORTED THAT DELEGATION OF FOUR NORTH KOREANS HAD RECENTLY VISITED THAT COUNTRY. GOJ EMBASSY HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO SEEK TO COORDINATE ACTIONS AT NACCFM, USING FRIENDLY LATIN NACC MEMBER (PANAMA IS NOT A MEMBER). AT SEPARATE MEETING WITH US, UK AND FRG REPORTED NO POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF MAJOR NORTH KOREAN INITIATIVE.

3. LEE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT CHOICE OF VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LI JONG MOK TO HEAD DELEGATION WAS RATHER INDICATIVE THAT NORTH KOREANS INTENDED ACTIVE ROLE, AS HE HAD UN EXPERIENCE AND WAS SENIOR FIGURE IN DPRK.

4. GROUND RULES ON PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVER DELEGATIONS IN MEETING--IF INDIA SUCCEEDS IN ENFORCING THEM--WILL BE GREAT DISADVANTAGE TO NORTH KOREA. OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN TOLD THEY MAY MAKE STATEMENTS IN PLENARY ON ITEMS IN WHICH THEY HAVE RECOGNIZED INTEREST. THEY MAY NOT OTHERWISE PARTICIPATE IN PLENARY DISCUSSIONS. IN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, OBSERVER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 04864 061530Z

DELEGATIONS MAY ATTEND BUT NOT SPEAK, ALTHOUGH INDIAN PLANNERS SAID TO US EARLIER THERE MAY BE EXCEPTIONS AS REPORTED REF B, NORTH KOREANS HAVE ASKED GOI FOR PERMISSION TO ADDRESS PLENARY.

5. NORTH KOREANS WILL ALSO REQUIRE ASSISTANCE OF FRIENDLY NACC MEMBER TO SUBMIT TEXTS ON ITS BEHALF. ROK REPS WERE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT ALGERIA WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE WILLING TO PLAY THAT ROLE. GROUP ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG CONTACTS THAT DUBAN DELEGATION WAS ANXIOUS TO OFFEND NO ONE IN PERIOD BEFORE HAVANA SUMMIT; CONCLUSION WAS THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER NORTH KOREA TOO HOT. NORTH KOREANS WOULD ALSO FACE STRONG EFFORT BY INDIANS TO PREVENT SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AT NACC MEETING.

6. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, NORTH KOREANS MIGHT BE CONSTRAINED TO FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS ON AMENDING TEXT OF CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE WHICH INDIANS HAVE DRAFTED.

THIS COULD BE QUITE DAMAGING TO SOUTH KOREAN AND US POSITIONS, IN THAT LARGE CHUNKS OF ONE-SIDED LANGUAGE -- E.G., CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES-- COULD PROBABLY BE SWALLOWED BY NACC MEMBERS IF NOT SURROUNDED BY THE THE DIATRIBE AND BOMBAST OF NORTH KOREAS TEXTS AS IN COLOMBO. IN THIS WORST-CASE SCENARIO, THE SIX NACC MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENTERED RESERVATION ON KOREA QUESTION IN COLOMBO MIGHT OPT FOR ACQUIESCENCE HERE.

7. AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, INDIAN DRAFT TEXTS WERE DISTRIBUTED LATE TUESDAY.

8. COMMENT: WE RECOGNIZE THIS ANALYSIS IS BASED LARGELY ON FACT THAT NORTH KOREANS HAVE NOT YET MADE ANY OVERT MOVE. WHATEVER TACTICS THEY USE AND REGARDLESS OF THE RESTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THE ORGANIZATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NEW DE 04864 061530Z

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE, WE BELIEVE NORTH KOREANS WILL NOT BE CONTENT TO REMIND DELEGATES OF THEIR CAUSE BUT RATHER WILL SEEK ENDORSEMENT OF THAT APPROACH TO KOREAN QUESTION. EXACTLY HOW THEY WILL DO SO IS STILL A MYSTERY TO THOSE OF US WHO ARE PEERING IN FROM THE OUTSIDE.
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